

Reflection Tuesday Week 31 All Saints Year C 2022

It is encouraging to know that we were sealed on the forehead at baptism and became children of God. At the same time, we were filled with the fullness of God's love. Our mission is to reflect God's love in all that we do in service of others, beginning with our families. Today's feast celebrating All Saints is a reminder of the many millions who have done this before us and now watch over us from heaven. In being anointed and filled with God's love and the power of the Spirit we are filled with the ability to live the beatitudes in a special way, and, like the saints, we are probably better at some, which form part of our daily lives, than others. As a family of believers, we make Christ present in all his mercy and healing and his love for all. Today we rejoice with all the saints and give thanks from the depth of our hearts.

ALL SAINTS Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

They are flocking from the East and the West,
they are flocking from the North and the South,
every moment setting forth
from realm of snake or lion,
swamp or sand, ice or burning;
greatest and least,
palm in hand and praise in mouth,
they are flocking up the path to their rest,
up the path that hath no returning.

Up the steep of Zion they are mounting,
coming, coming, throngs beyond man's counting;
with a sound like innumerable bees
swarming, humming where flowering trees
many-tinted, many-scented, all alike abound with honey,--
with a swell like a blast upswaying unrestrainable
from a shadowed dell to the hill-tops sunny,--
with a thunder like the ocean when in strength
breadth and length it sets to shore;
more and more waves on waves redoubled pour
leaping flashing to the shore
(unlike the under drain of ebb that loseth ground for all its roar.)

They are thronging from the East and West,
from the North and South,
Saints are thronging, loving, longing,
to their land of rest,
palm in hand and praise in mouth.

Saint Peter went running up to God expressing concern that a very large group of unsavoury characters were waiting outside the pearly gates.

The Almighty says: *'Tell them we've a long queue right now and to come back another time!'*
A short while later St Peter returns shouting *'They've gone!'*
God cries *'What all 150,000 of them?'*
St Peter replies *'No, the gates. They've taken the pearly gates!'*